

More than 700 students representing all state secondary student organizations gathered in Frankfort on February 14 to visit their local legislators and participate in events that demonstrated first hand how state government operates and works.

Billed as Career and Technical Education Student Organization (CTSO) Leadership Day or SOLD, the event was part of Career and Technical Education Week (February 12-18, 2006) designated by Governor Ernie Fletcher by way of a signed proclamation presented to students by Governor Fletcher's Chief of Staff Stan Cave in the Capitol Rotunda.

SOLD included a leadership forum hosted by Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) Executive Director Mike Stone; an assembly where all participants gathered to hear from state legislators, lobbyists and educational leaders; and a tour of the Capitol to meet legislators and watch sessions of the state House of Representatives and the Senate.

Education Cabinet Secretary Virginia Fox attended the forum and spoke to CTSO state officers about the need of educated leaders in our society.

"Through education and through leadership you will not only survive, but prosper," she said. "Education and leadership will be the keys that unlock opportunity for you."

State Senator Vernie McGaha talked to students at the assembly about the importance of their participation in government and career and technical education (CTE.)

"I thank you for taking an active role in CTE; a role that is critical to the further development of the Commonwealth, its citizens and the economy," he said.

State Representative Derrick Graham also addressed the assembly and explained to the students about getting legislation introduced into the General Assembly.

Being in government is about forging and building relationships and about how you deal with people," said Graham. "Your word is your bond."

Two students, Travis Whitt, DECA president from Lawrence County High School and Devan Parrett, state FFA president and University of Kentucky student from Hardin County, made their way to the Senate and House Appropriations and Revenue Committees to testify before legislators on the value of career and technical education and the need for continued funding for the programs.

"I am speaking today on behalf of all students enrolled in Career and Technical Education Programs, which really is a better name for the programs that prepare students both for work and college," said Whitt.

"Career and Technical Education graduates work with computers, in health care and child care, for business services, at retail stores, in sales. They also repair cars and air conditioning, grow and process food, build houses and manufacture products," said Parrett. "Virtually every segment of life in Kentucky is touched by a Career and Technical Education graduate."

Michael Chambers is a senior health sciences student at the Lee County Area Technology Center and saw the day as a valuable learning experience not only for students but for government officials as well.

"SOLD provides a unique forum for all Kentucky CTSO's to gather to learn and appreciate the legislature process that impacts our lives every day," he said. "By participating in the conference, state legislators can see the influence and value of career and technical education and the organizations that accompany them."

With nearly 50,000 members statewide, Kentucky's CTSOs contribute to workforce and college preparation by providing leadership opportunities and by applying learning situations to real-world work environments.

The student organizations are DECA, an association of marketing students; Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA); FFA, an association of agriculture students; Future Business Leaders Association (FBLA) for secondary students; HOSA, an association of health science students;; Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) an association of postsecondary business students; SkillsUSA, an association of trade and industrial students; and Technology Student Association (TSA).

Approximately 1.6 million students throughout the country participate in these organizations as a way to improve their personal development and specific skills in areas of study, such as marketing, nutrition and care-giving, farming, business, health, trade and industry, computers and technology.



Testifying before the Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee are, pictured from left: Leigha Phelps, FCCLA State Vice President of Individual Programs from Crittenden County High School; Travis Witt, DECA State President from Lawrence County High School; and Guhan Venguswamy, TSA State Historian, from Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School in Lexington.



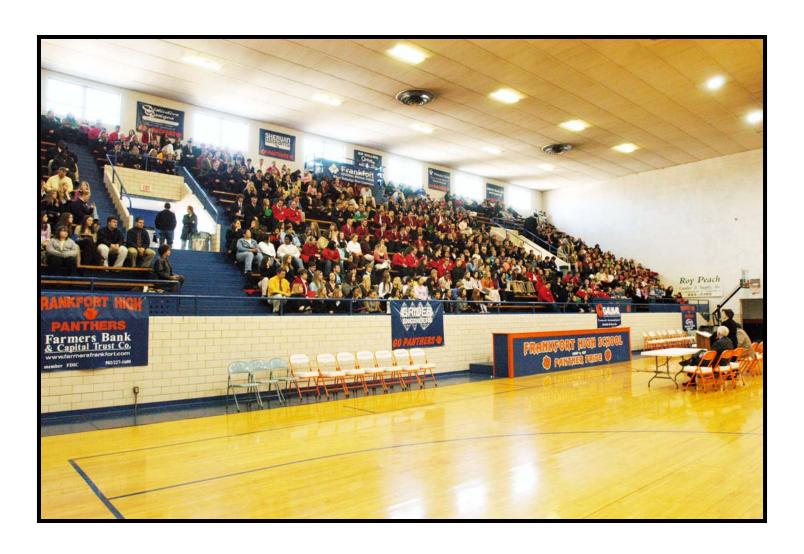
Governor Ernie Fletcher's Chief of Staff Stan Cave reads the Career and Technical Education Week proclamation to a group of student organization officers.



Presenting the Career and Technical Education Week proclamation.



Education Cabinet Secretary Virginia G. Fox



Call to Assembly at the Frankfort High Gym



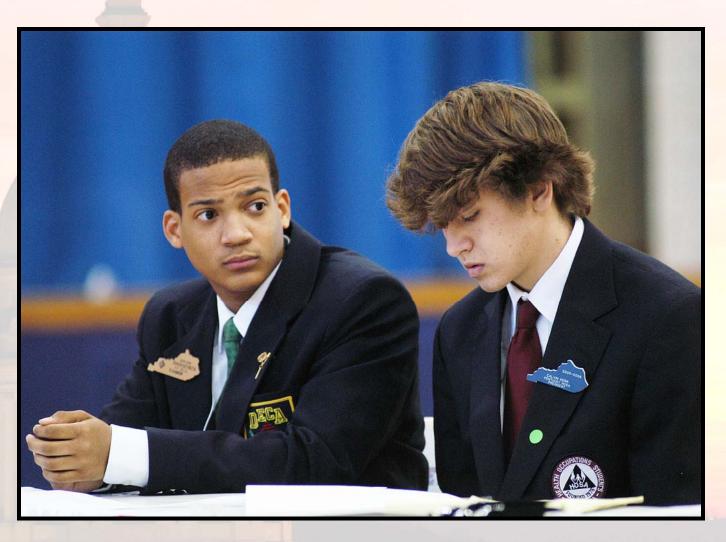
Asking a question of one of the presenters



State Senator Vernie McGaha (R-Russell Springs)



State Representative Derrick Graham (D-Frankfort)



Pictured from left: Brandon Northington, DECA state vice-president for membership from Scott Co. High School and Calvin Kerr, state HOSA president of Russell County High School.



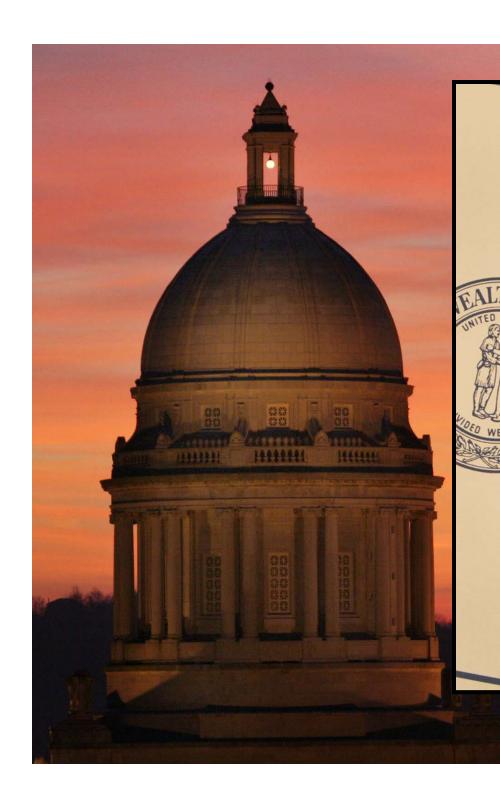
Mary Jennings, a University of Kentucky student from Lee County, is the state FFA reporter.



KACTE Executive Director Mike Stone leads a group of CTSO state officers through a skit teaching others how to approach their legislators correctly.



Pictured from top and clockwise are: KACTE Past President Sarah Raikes; Dale Winkler of the Office of Career and Technical Education and Larry Helphinstine of the Kentucky Department of Education.



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Commonwealth of Kentucky



To MI To Whom These Lresents Shall Gome:

WHEREAS. The Association for Career and Technical Education has established the theme "Career Tech-Education for Success" for Career and Technical Education Week; and

WHEREAS. Career and technical education provides Kentuckians with education and training opportunities support the Commonwealth with a versatile, well-educated and technically trained workforce.

The Education Cabinet, Office of Career and Technical Education, is responsible for provide leadership, technical assistance, and administrative management to 53 Area Technology Centechnical skills training for high school students that leads to successful post high school train technical skills training for high school students that leads to successful post high school train technical school training needs of business and industry for local community; and WHEREAS,

WHEREAS. The Department of Education, Division of Career and Technical Education, provides technic assistance to 176 local school districts in planning and improving secondary career and technical education programs. Through these programs, students develop the academic and technical needed for successful transitions to the work force or postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS. The Kentucky Community and Technical College System is responsible for improving the life and employability of the citizens of the Commonwealth through its postsecondary educations, training and services in technical and community colleges. KCTCS changes live offering academic and technical certificates; diploma and degree programs, workforce train continuing education.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ERNIE FLETCHER, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby pa February 12-18, 2006, as

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION WEEK



DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Frankli of January, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousans the 214th year of the Commonwealth.